(ii) Education including pre-school education;

(iii) Barrier-free environment;

(vi) Women & Children with disabilities;

(v) Vocational Training & Employment.

Some of the Core Group have proposed schemes in their reports submitted to this Ministry. Consultations are on with concerned Ministries to concretise the schemes.

(e) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme (100% funding by Central Government) has been proposed for setting up institutional infrastructure for rehabilitation of disabled in rural and remote areas. To field test the scheme, a Pilot Project for setting up 11 District Rehabilitation Centres and 10 States Institutes for Disability Rehabilitation in 10 States has been formulated.

(f) The National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation has been registered on 24.1.1997 with the aim of supporting entrepreneurical efforts of persons with disabilities.

(g) The Government is in the process of finalising 'The National Trust for the Welfare of the Persons with Mental Retardation, Cerebral palsy, Autism & Multiple Disability Bill'.

(h) Chapter XII of the Act deals with the appointments of Chief Commissioner for persons with disabilities for the country and Commissioner for each State, to coordinate, promote and monitor services for persons with disabilities etc. The post of Cheif Commissioner, personal staff and other officers/staff have already been created.

(i) An Inter-Ministerial Group with the representatives from Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Department of Education, Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment, Deptt. of Women & Child Development, Ministry of Rural Affairs & Employment, Deptt. Personnel & Training and Planning Commission, to reivew the progress made by these Ministries for implementation of the Act. This Group has undertaken five meetings so far.

(j) All State Governments have been requested to take necessary steps including provision of budgetary allocation for speedy implementation of the provisions of the Act, Union Welfare Minister has taken up the matter with the Chief Ministers of the States and Prime Minister has written to Central Ministers and Chief Ministers of the States in this regard. Model Rules under the Act have also been drawn up and sent to the State Governments for their convenience. Most State Govts. have initiated/taken action on areas concerning these.

(k) A conference of State Secretaries incharge of persons with disabilities was held on 12.2.1997 at New Delhi to discuss the implementation of the Act.

(l) A National Workshop on State Education Secretaries and other experts was held on 29th August' 97 on implementation of Disabilities Act. A workshop with State Labour Secretaries has been jointly organised by Ministry of Labour & Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment on 25th & 26th June' 98. A meeting with State Health Secretaries & Ministry of Health & Family Welfare is also on the anvil.

(m) A meeting was held on Open Learning System with the National Open School and other experts to start a process of accredition of the special and integrated schools for disabled children as well as development of suitable curricula.

(n) Through a notification of 27th Oct.' 97, the National Fund for People with Disabilities was amended. The Fund aims at creating services for the disabled for prevention, early detection, education, training, physical and economic rehabilitation. The last meeting of the Fund was held on 30.8.98.

In the meeting of Board of management of the Fund held on 6.1.98, financial assistance was sanctioned for the first time to 6 NGOs and one DRC.

Implementation of Fifteen Point Programme

4372. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the programmes implemented in forty one backward minorities concentrated districts under Fifteen Point Programme;

(b) the progress made in each of the

Programme in these districts till March, 1998; and

(c) the details of the Programmes and Schemes for the above districts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (c) Fifteen point programmes for the welfare of Minorities is being implemented throughout the country including 41 minority, concentrated districts located in 11 States. Under this programme following welfare schemes are being implemented.

(i) The Schemes of prepartation of multi sectoral development plan is being implemented since 1996 in 41 minority concentration districts for the purpose of carrying out survey on the activities conspicuously pursued by minorities with a view to ascertain support required in form of credit, marketing, technology, training etc. and means to arrange them. Under this scheme till March, 1998, project reports from 9 districts of U.P. and from 3 districts of Karnataka have been received. Defaulting states have been reminded.

(ii) The scheme of Pre-examination coaching for weaker sections based on economic criteria is being implemented since 1992-93. Under this scheme the backward sections among minorities are also being coached/trained through reputed coaching institution so as to enable them to compete with others in competitive exams leading to recruitment in public employment and admission in professional course. Under this scheme, grant-in-aid has been disbursed to 10 districts. The details of disimbursement till 31-3-98 is enclosed as Statement (*See* below)

(iii) National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation (NMDFC) was set-up in September, 1994 for providing concessional financial assistance to backward sections among minorities for setting up self employment ventures to disburse loan through State Channelising Agencies. District-wise data is not maintained by NMDFC.

(iv) For promotion of educations among minorites, Deptt. of education is implementing schemes of area intensive programme and modernisation of Madrasas. District-wise data is not maintained by department of education.

Statement

State	District	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)	Beneficiaries
Andhra Pradesh	1. Hyderabad	22.84	520
	2. Kurnool	1.35	40
Karnataka	3. Bihar	2.75	80
	4. Bijapur	1.35	40
Kerala	5. Malapuram	0.99	40
M.P.	6. Bhopal	8.22	320
Maharashtra	7. Bombay	6.03	200
	8. Aurangabad	0.99	40
U.P.	9. Ghaziabad	4.95	160
	10. Meerut	0.75	40

Corruption and Malpractices in PWB

4373. SHRI MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state;

(a) whether corruption and malpractices galore in Punjab Wakf Board;

(b) whether corrupt employees of the Board have a field day and have virutally hijacked the Board;

(c) whether such employees are influencing the office of the Minister;

(d) whether such employees do not observe discipline and conduct rules; and

(e) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) While it is a fact that some employees of the Board indulge into corrupt practices, the situation cannot be described as corruption and malpractices being